

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5653

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0535

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE AT ARGENTIA

1. THE FEBRUARY 12 HANSARD HAS PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING
EXCHANGE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A STRIKE AT ARGENTIA:
"ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND-- CANADIANS EMPLOYED BY UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT DENIED RIGHT TO FORM UNION

"MR. WALTER CARTER (ST. JOHN'S WEST): MR. SPEAKER, MY
QUESTION IS DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CONCERNS A NUMBER OF CANADIAN CIVILIANS
EMPLOYED THE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE U.S. NAVAL
STATION AT ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND. IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE RECEIVING WAGES LESS THAN THE
PREVAILING RATE IN THE AREA, AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES
INTO A UNION AND THEREBY RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING, WOULD THE MINISTER UNDERTAKE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS
TO HIS COUNTERPART IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW
TO HAVING THIS INEQUITY REMOVED, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THESE
CANADIANS ARE PAID WAGES THAT ARE AT LEAST COMPARABLE TO THOSE
PAID PEOPLE IN THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE WHO ARE DOING THE
SAME WORK IN THAT AREA?

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ZHON. ALLAN J. MACEACHEN (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, I THANK THE HON. MEMBER FOR HIS REPRESENTATION. I AM NOT FULLY INFORMED ON THE FACTS IN QUESTION. I WILL ATTEMPT TO INFORM MYSELF, AND IF THERE IS A BASIS FOR REPRESENTATIONS I WILL BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER THAT COURSE."

2. COMMENT: AN EXTAFF OFFICIAL HAS INDICATED GOC WILL PROBABLY SUBMIT NOTE TO EMBASSY REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION ON STRIKE SITUATION, ITS CAUSES, AND ON ALLEGATION THAT CANADIANS DENIED RIGHT TO ORGANIZE INTO A UNION. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION CONGEN MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS MADE BY CARTER.
PORTER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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